

60,469-025; OT-4739

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing support;

a top landing support; and

a rise for interconnecting said bottom landing support to said top landing support wherein said rise includes at least one module wherein the module comprises a steel sheet covering an escalator machine, said steel sheet having a top edge, a bottom edge and two side edges extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, respectively, said steel sheet presenting a continuous, unbroken and generally planar exterior surface from said top edge to said bottom edge and between said side edges.

2-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the module is welded to other portions of the rise along edges of said steel sheet such that said module extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover ~~the~~an entire side of the escalator machine.

15-26. (Cancelled)

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27. (Previously Presented) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing;

a top landing; and

a rise comprising a plurality of support sub-modules wherein one of said support sub-modules includes a steel plate having a top edge, a bottom edge and two side edges extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, respectively, said steel plate presenting a continuous, unbroken and generally planar exterior surface from said top edge to said bottom edge and between said side edges for covering an escalator drive machine.

28. (Previously Presented) The assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein a first one of said side edges is attached to a first one of the support sub-modules and a second one of said side edges is attached to a second one of the support sub-modules.

29. (Previously Presented) The assembly as recited in claim 28 wherein said steel plate is welded along said side edges to connect said steel plate to said first one and said second one of the support sub-modules.

30. (Currently Amended) The assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein said steel plate extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover ~~the~~ an entire side of the escalator drive machine.

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31. (Previously Presented) The assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein each of said support sub-modules is attached to adjacent support sub-modules forming a rigid framework.

32. (Previously Presented) The assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said module is welded to other portions of the rise along edges of said steel sheet such that said module extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover an entire lateral side of the escalator machine.

33. (Previously Presented) The assembly as recited in claim 27 wherein said steel plate extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover an entire lateral side of the escalator drive machine.